GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4493
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
FORMATION OF INDIA-IRAN-AFGHANISTAN TRIANGLE
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to form India-Iran-Afghanistan triangle to promote trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in this direction; and

(d) the other measures taken/likely to be taken by the Government to promote trade with Afghanistan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a)-(c) Government is in touch with other countries in the region, including Iran and Afghanistan, and is developing projects to improve links, including ports, roads and other infrastructure, so as to facilitate more efficient movement of goods to Afghanistan, both as a part of reconstruction assistance and commercial transactions.

(d) Government had facilitated the organization of `Made in India` show in Kabul in September this year by the Confederation of Indian Industries. The exhibition introduced the Indian capabilities in the field of commerce and industry to the Afghan people and business community, as is also being done by the Government`s assistance programme for Afghan reconstruction. Officials of the two countries are also working on finalization of a Preferential Trading Agreement.